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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/747,814

Applicant(s)

KITADA ET AL.

Examiner

HILINA S. KASSA

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/03/08.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment submitted on 12/03/2008 has been acknowledged. Claims 1-15 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 12/03/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

(1) argument:

With response to Applicant's newly added claim limitation, "transferring intermediate output data in a print format which can be handled commonly by all the output devices to the output device selected by the output device selection section"

In response, Owa et al. discloses *a print format which can be handled commonly by all the network printers* (column 7, lines 23-38; **note that the capabilities of all the printers PRN1-PRN4 are analyzed. In figure 3, printers 1-3 handle printing with A4 print formatting**). Also, in column 8, lines 30-38 discloses, when a document print command is entered the user information detection means detects user specifications, i.e., color or monochrome print, print resolution, presence or absence of image data, used font type, etc., for each print

page based on user-set or entered information and document features. Note that, these type of data as explained in applicant's specification is intermediate output data is in a format which can be handled commonly by all the network printers page 59, line 26-page 60, line 2. Thus, in line 35-38; the printer selection means selects a printer appropriate for printing for each print page based on the printer state of each printer 31a-31c and user information. Thus, the print data is in a format which can be handled commonly by the printers.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-8 and 10-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owa et al. (US Patent Number 6,348,971 B2) and Aoki (US Patent Number 6,631,008 B2) and further in view of Perry (US Patent Number 7,102,778 B2).

(1) regarding claims 1:

As shown in figure 1-2, Owa et al. disclose an output device selection system (1; **figure 1**) which communicably connects a plurality of output devices and selects one of the plurality of output devices to produce output (5, **2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, figure 1; column 3,**

lines 16-30; note that a host computer is connected with a plurality of printers via a communication network), wherein:

a first output device from among the plurality of output devices comprises a specialized output data receiving section for receiving specialized output data in an output format which can be output by devices of the same type as the first output device **(column 7, lines 12-17; note that print data gets transmitted to the selected optimum printer)**, and an output section for producing output based on the specialized output data received by the specialized output data receiving section **(column 7, lines 17-22; note that based on the print data the optimum printer proceeds printing);**

the output device selection system comprises an output device selection section for selecting a destination output device from among the plurality of output devices **(column 7, lines 26-39; note that the selection section selects an appropriate printer based upon the print data)**, and an intermediate output data transfer section for transferring intermediate output data *in a print format which can be handled commonly by all the output devices* **(column 7, lines 23-38; note that the capabilities of all the printers PRN1-PRN4 are analyzed. In figure 3, printers 1-3 handle printing with A4 print formatting)** to the output device selected by the output device selection section **(column 7, lines 17-22; note that after the selection has been made the print data gets transmitted to the appropriate optimum printing device);** and

a second output device other than the first output device from among the plurality of output devices comprises an intermediate output data receiving section for receiving

the intermediate output data (**column 7, lines 40-47; note that after the selection has been done based on the print data, the optimum printer PRN3 gets selected as it is considered as a second output device**), and an output section for producing output based on the specialized output data produced by the inverse data conversion section (**column 7, lines 44-47; note that printer PRN3 starts printing**).

Owa et al. disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching an inverse data conversion section for converting the intermediate output data received by the intermediate output data receiving section into specialized output data in an output format which can be output by devices of the same type as the second output device, and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data.

However, Aoki discloses an inverse data conversion section for converting the intermediate output data received by the intermediate output data receiving section (**column 13, lines 65-67; note that the received image data gets converted to printing data**) into specialized output data in an output format which can be output by devices of the same type as the second output device (**column 14, lines 2-3; note that the converted data gets printed by the printer device**) and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself (**column 13, lines 22-30; note that the print data is sent to the desired printer 40c which is designated to output the print data**

as also discussed in line 48-52), the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data (column 13, line 54-column 14, line 3; note that the outputting device i.e. printer 40c receives the image data and requests conversion process to printing data i.e. specialized data then outputs the printing data).

Owa et al. and Aoki are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to have an inverse data conversion section for converting the intermediate output data received by the intermediate output data receiving section into specialized output data in an output format which can be output by devices of the same type as the second output device and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to efficiently acquire a desired output and utilize different output devices (column 7, lines 12-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. with Aoki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Owa et al. and Aoki disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions

indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data.

However, Perry teaches if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device (**column 2, lines 1-7; note that if the first printer, or output device, is not capable to process the print job, it transfers it to the second printer based on a comparison result**), the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device (**column 1, lines 63-67; note that the first printer distributes or transfers the print job to the second printer based on the capabilities**), and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself (**column 2, lines 7-10; note that when the second printer gets selected based on the capabilities, it submits the offer to the user to fulfill the print job or process the print job**), the output device does output based on the received specialized output data (**column 2, lines 1-4; note that the second printer processes or fulfills the requirements based on the received print job i.e. considered as output data**).

Owa et al., Aoki and Perry are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. network printing. At the time of the invention, it would have been

obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to have an efficient and reliable system that could be able to process print request without user selecting the appropriate printer. Such system also saves time (column 1, lines 24-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. and Aoki with Perry to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

(2) regarding claim 2:

Owa et al. further disclose, an output device selection system (**1; figure 1**) which communicably connects a plurality of output devices and selects one of the plurality of output devices to produce output (**5, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, figure 1; column 3, lines 16-30; note that a host computer is connected with a plurality of printers via a communication network**), wherein:

a first output device from among the plurality of output devices comprises a specialized output data receiving section for receiving specialized output data in an output format which can be output by devices of the same type as the first output device (**column 7, lines 12-17; note that print data gets transmitted to the selected**

optimum printer), in a print format which can be handled commonly by all the output devices (column 7, lines 23-38; note that the capabilities of all the printers PRN1-PRN4 are analyzed. In figure 3, printers 1-3 handle printing with A4 print formatting) an output section for producing output based on the specialized output data received by the specialized output data receiving section (column 7, lines 17-22; note that based on the print data the optimum printer proceeds printing); and

a second output device other than the first output device from among the plurality of output devices comprises an intermediate output data receiving section for receiving the intermediate output data (**column 7, lines 40-47; note that after the selection has been done based on the print data, the optimum printer PRN3 gets selected as it is considered as a second output device**), and an output section for producing output based on the specialized output data produced by the inverse data conversion section (**column 7, lines 44-47; note that printer PRN3 starts printing**).

Owa et al. discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching (I) a data conversion section for converting the specialized output data received by the specialized output data receiving section into intermediate output data; (II) an output device selection section for selecting a destination output device from among the plurality of output devices, and an intermediate output data transfer section for transferring the intermediate output data produced by the data conversion section to the output device selected by the output device selection section; and (III) an inverse data conversion section for converting the intermediate output data received by the intermediate output data receiving section into specialized output data in an output

format which can be output by devices of the same type as the second output device, and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data.

However, Aoki discloses (I) a data conversion section for converting the specialized output data received by the specialized output data receiving section into intermediate output data (**column 12, lines 57-65; column 14, lines 40-46**); (II) an output device selection section for selecting a destination output device from among the plurality of output devices (**column 13, lines 42-53; note that printer 40c selects other printer 40a-40b**), and an intermediate output data transfer section for transferring the intermediate output data produced by the data conversion section to the output device selected by the output device selection section (**column 13, lines 65-67; note that the data gets converted to print data**); and (III) an inverse data conversion section for converting the intermediate output data received by the intermediate output data receiving section (**column 13, lines 65-67; note that the received image data gets converted to printing data**) into specialized output data in an output format which can be output by devices of the same type as the second output device (**column 14, lines 2-3; note that the converted data gets printed by the printer device**) and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself (**column 13, lines 22-30; note that the print data is sent to the desired printer 40c which is designated**

to output the print data as also discussed in line 48-52), the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data (column 13, line 54-column 14, line 3; note that the outputting device i.e. printer 40c receives the image data and requests conversion process to printing data i.e. specialized data then outputs the printing data).

Owa et al. and Aoki are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to have (I) a data conversion section for converting the specialized output data received by the specialized output data receiving section into intermediate output data; (II) an output device selection section for selecting a destination output device from among the plurality of output devices, and an intermediate output data transfer section for transferring the intermediate output data produced by the data conversion section to the output device selected by the output device selection section; and (III) an inverse data conversion section for converting the intermediate output data received by the intermediate output data receiving section into specialized output data in an output format which can be output by devices of the same type as the second output device, and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to efficiently acquire a

desired output and utilize different output devices (column 7, lines 12-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. with Aoki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

Owa et al. and Aoki disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data.

However, Perry teaches if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device (**column 2, lines 1-7; note that if the first printer, or output device, is not capable to process the print job, it transfers it to the second printer based on a comparison result**), the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device (**column 1, lines 63-67; note that the first printer distributes or transfers the print job to the second printer based on the capabilities**), and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself (**column 2, lines 7-10; note that when the second printer gets selected based on the capabilities, it submits the offer to the**

user to fulfill the print job or process the print job), the output device does output based on the received specialized output data (column 2, lines 1-4; note that the second printer processes or fulfills the requirements based on the received print job i.e. considered as output data).

Owa et al., Aoki and Perry are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. network printing. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to have an efficient and reliable system that could be able to process print request without user selecting the appropriate printer. Such system also saves time (column 1, lines 24-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. and Aoki with Perry to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

(3) regarding claim 3:

Owa et al. further disclose a printer selection system (1, figure 1) which communicably connects a plurality of network printers and selects one of the plurality of

network printers in response to a print request from a print request terminal (5, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, figure 1), wherein:

the network printer comprises a specialized print data receiving section for receiving specialized print data in a print format which can be printed by devices of the same type as the one network printer (**column 7, lines 12-17; note that print data gets transmitted to the selected optimum printer**), a network printer selection section for selecting a destination network printer from among the plurality of network printers (**column 7, lines 17-22; note that based on the print data the optimum printer proceeds printing**), *in a print format which can be handled commonly by all the network printers* (**column 7, lines 23-38; note that the capabilities of all the printers PRN1-PRN4 are analyzed. In figure 3, printers 1-3 handle printing with A4 print formatting**) an intermediate print data transfer section for transferring the intermediate print data produced by the data conversion section to the network printer selected by the network printer selection section (**column 7, lines 17-22; note that after the selection has been made the print data gets transmitted to the appropriate optimum printing device**), an inverse data conversion section for converting the intermediate print data received by the intermediate print data receiving section into the specialized print data (**column 7, lines 40-47; note that after the selection has been done based on the print data, the optimum printer PRN3 gets selected as it is considered as a second output device**), and a printing section for printing based on at least one of the specialized print data received by the specialized print data receiving

section and the specialized print data produced by the inverse data conversion section (**column 7, lines 44-47; note that printer PRN3 starts printing**); and

the data conversion section (**column 8, lines 44-47**), the network printer selection section (**column 8, lines 30-38**), and the intermediate print data transfer section operate based on predetermined printing conditions (**column 8, lines 40-44**).

Owe et al. disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching an intermediate print data receiving section for receiving the intermediate print data, a data conversion section for converting the specialized print data received by the specialized print data receiving section into intermediate print data, a network printer selection section for selecting a destination network printer from among the plurality of network printers, and if the network printer receives intermediate print data which contains printing conditions indicating that printing should be done on the network printer itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized print data.

However, Aoki discloses an intermediate print data receiving section for receiving the intermediate print data (**column 13, line 65-67; note that the received image data gets converted to printing data**), a data conversion section for converting the specialized print data received by the specialized print data receiving section into intermediate print data (**column 13, lines 65-67; note that the received image data gets converted to printing data**), and if the network printer receives intermediate print data which contains printing conditions indicating that printing should be done on the

network printer itself (**column 13, lines 22-30; note that the print data is sent to the desired printer 40c which is designated to output the print data as also discussed in line 48-52**), the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized print data (**column 13, line 54-column 14, line 3; note that the outputting device i.e. printer 40c receives the image data and requests conversion process to printing data i.e. specialized data then outputs the printing data**).

.Owa et al. and Aoki are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have an intermediate print data receiving section for receiving the intermediate print data, a data conversion section for converting the specialized print data received by the specialized print data receiving section into intermediate print data, and if the network printer receives intermediate print data which contains printing conditions indicating that printing should be done on the network printer itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized print data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to efficiently acquire a desired output and utilize different output devices (column 7, lines 12-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. with Aoki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 3.

Owa et al. and Aoki disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching if the output device receives specialized output data

which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data.

However, Perry teaches if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device (**column 2, lines 1-7; note that if the first printer, or output device, is not capable to process the print job, it transfers it to the second printer based on a comparison result**), the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device (**column 1, lines 63-67; note that the first printer distributes or transfers the print job to the second printer based on the capabilities**), and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself (**column 2, lines 7-10; note that when the second printer gets selected based on the capabilities, it submits the offer to the user to fulfill the print job or process the print job**), the output device does output based on the received specialized output data (**column 2, lines 1-4; note that the second printer processes or fulfills the requirements based on the received print job i.e. considered as output data**).

Owa et al., Aoki and Perry are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. network printing. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to have an efficient and reliable system that could be able to process print request without user selecting the appropriate printer. Such system also saves time (column 1, lines 24-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. and Aoki with Perry to obtain the invention as specified in claim 3.

(4) regarding claim 4:

Owa et al. further disclose, the printer selection system according to claim 3, wherein:

the specialized print data contains the printing conditions (**s3, figure 6; column 5, lines 39-44**);

if the printing conditions contained in the specialized print data received by the specialized print data receiving section indicate that another one of the network printers should be used for printing (**column 5, lines 45-54**), the data conversion section

(column 8, lines 44-47), the network printer selection section (column 8, lines 30-38), and the intermediate print data transfer section operate based on the received printing conditions (column 8, lines 40-44); and

if the printing conditions contained in the specialized print data received by the specialized print data receiving section indicate that the local network printer should be used for printing (column 6, lines 50-65), the printing section does printing based on the received specialized print data (column 6, lines 37-49).

(5) regarding claim 5:

Owa et al. further disclose, the printer selection system according to claim 4, wherein:

if the printing conditions contained in the specialized print data received by the specialized print data receiving section indicate that another one of the network printers should be used for printing (column 6, line 66-column 7, line 11), the network printer selection section selects the network printer indicated by the printing conditions from among the plurality of network printers (column 7, lines 12-22).

(6) regarding claim 6:

Owa et al. disclose most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching, the printer selection system maintains selection conditions for the network printer; and the network printer selection section selects a destination network printer from among the plurality of network printers based on the selection conditions.

However, Aoki discloses the printer selection system maintains selection conditions for the network printer (**column 13, lines 47-56**); and the network printer selection section selects a destination network printer from among the plurality of network printers based on the selection conditions (**column 13, lines 57-64**).

Owa et al. and Aoki are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to have the printer selection system maintains selection conditions for the network printer; and the network printer selection section selects a destination network printer from among the plurality of network printers based on the selection conditions. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to efficiently acquire a desired output and utilize different output devices (**column 7, lines 12-16**). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. with Aoki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

(7) regarding claim 7:

Owa et al. further disclose, the printer selection system according to claim 5, wherein: the intermediate print data contains the printing conditions (**s3, figure 6; column 5, lines 39-44**); and if the printing conditions contained in the intermediate print data received by the intermediate print data receiving section indicate that the local network printer should be used for printing (**column 6, lines 50-65**).

Owa et al. disclose most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching the inverse data conversion section and the printing section operate based on the received intermediate print data.

However, Aoki discloses the inverse data conversion section and the printing section operate based on the received intermediate print data (**column 13, line 65-67; note that the received image data gets converted to printing data**).

Owa et al. and Aoki are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to the inverse data conversion section and the printing section operate based on the received intermediate print data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to efficiently acquire a desired output and utilize different output devices (column 7, lines 12-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. with Aoki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

(8) regarding claim 8:

Owa et al. disclose the printer selection system according to claim 3, wherein: when transferring print data to the other network printer (**column 6, line 66-column 6**), the specialized print data is transferred without conversion by the data conversion section if the destination network printer is of the same type as the local network printer (**column 7, lines 6-11**).

(9) regarding claim 10:

Owa et al. disclose an output device which communicably connects with a plurality of output devices (**1, 5, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, figure 1**), comprising:

a specialized output data receiving section for receiving specialized output data in an output format which can be output by devices of the same type as the output device (**column 7, lines 12-17; note that print data gets transmitted to the selected optimum printer**), an output section for producing output based on the specialized output data received by the specialized output data receiving section (**column 7, lines 17-22; note that based on the print data the optimum printer proceeds printing**), an output device selection section for selecting a destination output device from among the plurality of output devices (**column 7, lines 26-39; note that the selection section selects an appropriate printer based upon the print data**), *in a print format which can be handled commonly by all the output devices* (**column 7, lines 23-38; note that the capabilities of all the printers PRN1-PRN4 are analyzed. In figure 3, printers 1-3 handle printing with A4 print formatting**) and an intermediate output data transfer section for transferring intermediate output data produced by the data conversion section to the output device selected by the output device selection section (**column 7, lines 17-22; note that after the selection has been made the print data gets transmitted to the appropriate optimum printing device**).

Owa et al. disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching a data conversion section for converting the specialized output data received by the specialized output data receiving section into intermediate output data, and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output

conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data.

However, Aoki, discloses a data conversion section for converting the specialized output data received by the specialized output data receiving section into intermediate output data (**column 3, lines 20-32**), and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself (**column 13, lines 22-30; note that the print data is sent to the desired printer 40c which is designated to output the print data as also discussed in line 48-52**), the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data (**column 13, line 54-column 14, line 3; note that the outputting device i.e. printer 40c receives the image data and requests conversion process to printing data i.e. specialized data then outputs the printing data**).

Owa et al. and Aoki are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to have a data conversion section for converting the specialized output data received by the specialized output data receiving section into intermediate output data, and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output

data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to efficiently acquire a desired output and utilize different output devices (column 7, lines 12-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. with Aoki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

Owa et al. and Aoki disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data.

However, Perry teaches if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device (**column 2, lines 1-7; note that if the first printer, or output device, is not capable to process the print job, it transfers it to the second printer based on a comparison result**), the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device (**column 1, lines 63-67; note that the first printer distributes or transfers the print job to the second printer based on the capabilities**), and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself (**column 2, lines 7-10; note that when the**

second printer gets selected based on the capabilities, it submits the offer to the user to fulfill the print job or process the print job), the output device does output based on the received specialized output data (column 2, lines 1-4; note that the second printer processes or fulfills the requirements based on the received print job i.e. considered as output data).

Owa et al., Aoki and Perry are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. network printing. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to have an efficient and reliable system that could be able to process print request without user selecting the appropriate printer. Such system also saves time (column 1, lines 24-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. and Aoki with Perry to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

(9) regarding claim 11:

An output device which communicably connects with a plurality of output devices (1, 5, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, figure 1), comprising:

a print format which can be handled commonly by all the output devices (column 7, lines 23-38; note that the capabilities of all the printers PRN1-PRN4 are analyzed. In figure 3, printers 1-3 handle printing with A4 print formatting) an inverse data conversion section for converting the intermediate output data received by the intermediate output data receiving section into specialized output data in an output format which can be output by devices of the same type as this output device (column 7, lines 40-47; note that after the selection has been done based on the print data, the optimum printer PRN3 gets selected as it is considered as a second output device), and an output section for producing output based on the specialized output data produced by the inverse data conversion section (column 7, lines 44-47; note that printer PRN3 starts printing).

Owe et al. disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching an intermediate output data receiving section for receiving the intermediate output data, and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data.

However, Aoki discloses an intermediate output data receiving section for receiving the intermediate output data (column 13, line 65-67; note that the received image data gets converted to printing data), and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should

be done on the output device itself (**column 13, lines 22-30; note that the print data is sent to the desired printer 40c which is designated to output the print data as also discussed in line 48-52**), the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data (**column 13, line 54-column 14, line 3; note that the outputting device i.e. printer 40c receives the image data and requests conversion process to printing data i.e. specialized data then outputs the printing data**) .

Owa et al. and Aoki are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to have an intermediate output data receiving section for receiving the intermediate output data, and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to efficiently acquire a desired output and utilize different output devices (column 7, lines 12-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. with Aoki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 11.

Owa et al. and Aoki disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions

indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data.

However, Perry teaches if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device (**column 2, lines 1-7; note that if the first printer, or output device, is not capable to process the print job, it transfers it to the second printer based on a comparison result**), the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device (**column 1, lines 63-67; note that the first printer distributes or transfers the print job to the second printer based on the capabilities**), and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself (**column 2, lines 7-10; note that when the second printer gets selected based on the capabilities, it submits the offer to the user to fulfill the print job or process the print job**), the output device does output based on the received specialized output data (**column 2, lines 1-4; note that the second printer processes or fulfills the requirements based on the received print job i.e. considered as output data**).

Owa et al., Aoki and Perry are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. network printing. At the time of the invention, it would have been

obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to have an efficient and reliable system that could be able to process print request without user selecting the appropriate printer. Such system also saves time (column 1, lines 24-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. and Aoki with Perry to obtain the invention as specified in claim 11.

(10) regarding claim 12:

Owa et al. further discloses a computer-readable medium having a program for an output device which communicably connects with a plurality of output devices (**1, 5, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, figure 1**), wherein the program makes the computer execute processes to be implemented as:

a specialized output data receiving section for receiving specialized output data in an output format which can be output by devices of the same type as the computer (**column 7, lines 12-17; note that print data gets transmitted to the selected optimum printer**), *a print format which can be handled commonly by all the output devices* (**column 7, lines 23-38; note that the capabilities of all the printers PRN1-**

PRN4 are analyzed. In figure 3, printers 1-3 handle printing with A4 print formatting) an output device selection section for selecting a destination output device from among the plurality of output devices (**column 7, lines 17-22; note that based on the print data the optimum printer proceeds printing**), and an intermediate output data transfer section for transferring intermediate output data produced by the data conversion section to the output device selected by the output device selection section (**column 7, lines 17-22; note that after the selection has been made the print data gets transmitted to the appropriate optimum printing device**).

Owa et al. discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching a data conversion section for converting the specialized output data received by the specialized output data receiving section into intermediate output data, and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data.

Aoki teaches a data conversion section for converting the specialized output data received by the specialized output data receiving section into intermediate output data (**column 13, line 65-67; note that the received image data gets converted to printing data**), and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself (**column 13, lines 22-30; note that the print data is sent to the desired printer 40c which is designated to output the print data as also discussed in line 48-52**),

the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data (**column 13, line 54-column 14, line 3; note that the outputting device i.e. printer 40c receives the image data and requests conversion process to printing data i.e. specialized data then outputs the printing data**).

Owa et al. and Aoki are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have a data conversion section for converting the specialized output data received by the specialized output data receiving section into intermediate output data, and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to efficiently acquire a desired output and utilize different output devices (column 7, lines 12-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. with Aoki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 12.

Owa et al. and Aoki disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the

output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data.

However, Perry teaches if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device (**column 2, lines 1-7; note that if the first printer, or output device, is not capable to process the print job, it transfers it to the second printer based on a comparison result**), the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device (**column 1, lines 63-67; note that the first printer distributes or transfers the print job to the second printer based on the capabilities**), and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself (column 2, lines 7-10; note that when the second printer gets selected based on the capabilities, it submits the offer to the user to fulfill the print job or process the print job), the output device does output based on the received specialized output data (column 2, lines 1-4; note that the second printer processes or fulfills the requirements based on the received print job i.e. considered as output data).

Owa et al., Aoki and Perry are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. network printing. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on

conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to have an efficient and reliable system that could be able to process print request without user selecting the appropriate printer. Such system also saves time (column 1, lines 24-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. and Aoki with Perry to obtain the invention as specified in claim 12.

(12) regarding claim 13:

Owa et al. further discloses a computer having a program for an output device which communicably connects with a plurality of output devices (1, 5, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, figure 1), wherein the program makes the computer execute processes to be implemented as:

a print format which can be handled commonly by all the output devices (column 7, lines 23-38; note that the capabilities of all the printers PRN1-PRN4 are analyzed. In figure 3, printers 1-3 handle printing with A4 print formatting)

Owa et al. disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching an intermediate output data receiving section for receiving intermediate output data, an inverse data conversion section for converting the intermediate output data received by the intermediate output data receiving section into

specialized output data in an output format which can be output by devices of the same type as the computer, and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data.

However, Aoki discloses an intermediate output data receiving section for receiving intermediate output data (**column 13, lines 65-67; note that the received image data gets converted to printing data**), an inverse data conversion section for converting the intermediate output data received by the intermediate output data receiving section (**column 13, lines 65-67; note that the received image data gets converted to printing data**) into specialized output data in an output format which can be output by devices of the same type as the computer (**column 14, lines 2-3; note that the converted data gets printed by the printer device**), and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself (**column 13, lines 22-30; note that the print data is sent to the desired printer 40c which is designated to output the print data as also discussed in line 48-52**), the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data (**column 13, line 54-column 14, line 3; note that the outputting device i.e. printer 40c receives the image data and requests conversion process to printing data i.e. specialized data then outputs the printing data**).

Owa et al. and Aoki are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have an inverse data conversion section for converting the intermediate output data received by the intermediate output data receiving section into specialized output data in an output format which can be output by devices of the same type as the second output device, and if the output device receives intermediate output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does outputting based on the resulting specialized output data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to efficiently acquire a desired output and utilize different output devices (column 7, lines 12-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. with Aoki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 13.

Owa et al. and Aoki disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data.

However, Perry teaches if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device (**column 2, lines 1-7; note that if the first printer, or output device, is not capable to process the print job, it transfers it to the second printer based on a comparison result**), the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device (**column 1, lines 63-67; note that the first printer distributes or transfers the print job to the second printer based on the capabilities**), and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself (column 2, lines 7-10; note that when the second printer gets selected based on the capabilities, it submits the offer to the user to fulfill the print job or process the print job), the output device does output based on the received specialized output data (column 2, lines 1-4; note that the second printer processes or fulfills the requirements based on the received print job i.e. considered as output data).

Owa et al., Aoki and Perry are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. network printing. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions indicating that output should be done on conditions indicating that output should be done on another output device, the output device transfers the resulting intermediate output data to the other output device, and if the output device receives specialized output data which contains output conditions

indicating that output should be done on the output device itself, the output device does output based on the received specialized output data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to have an efficient and reliable system that could be able to process print request without user selecting the appropriate printer. Such system also saves time (column 1, lines 24-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. and Aoki with Perry to obtain the invention as specified in claim 13.

5. Claims 14 and 15 recite the same feature as previously examined claims 1 and 2 except claims 14-15 are method claims. Thus, the arguments are similar to that presented above for claims 1-2.

6. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki (US Patent Number 6,631,008 B2) and Owa et al. (US Patent Number 6,348,971 B2), and further in view of Perry (US Patent Number 7,102,778).

(9) regarding claim 9:

Aoki, a printer selection system which communicably connects a plurality of network printers with a print request terminal (**column 1, lines 61-65**) and selects one of the plurality of network printers in response to a print request from the print request terminal (**column 1, line 65-column 2, line 3**), wherein:

the print request terminal comprises an intermediate print data generating section for generating intermediate print data (**column 2, lines 4-6**), and an intermediate print

data sending section for sending the intermediate print data generated by the intermediate print data generating section to one of the plurality of network printers **(column 2, lines 6-8);**

an intermediate print data transfer section for transferring the intermediate print data received by the intermediate print data receiving section to another network printer **(column 3, line 16-19)**, an inverse data conversion section for converting the intermediate print data received by the intermediate print data receiving section into specialized print data in a print format which can be printed by devices of the same type as the one network printer **(column 3, lines 20-32)**, and a printing section for printing based on the specialized print data produced by the inverse data conversion section **(column 3, lines 34-39);** and

the intermediate print data transfer section operates based on predetermined printing conditions **(column 2, lines 9-15).**

and if the network printer receives intermediate output data which contains printing conditions indicating that output should be done on the output device itself **(column 13, lines 22-30; note that the print data is sent to the desired printer 40c which is designated to output the print data as also discussed in line 48-52)**, the output device converts the received intermediate print data into specialized print data and does printing based on the resulting specialized print data **(column 13, line 54-column 14, line 3; note that the outputting device i.e. printer 40c receives the image data and requests conversion process to printing data i.e. specialized data then outputs the printing data).**

Aoki discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching the network printer comprises an intermediate print data receiving section for receiving intermediate print data *in a print format which can be handled commonly by all the network printers*.

However, Owa et al. discloses the network printer comprises an intermediate print data receiving section for receiving intermediate print data (**column 13, line 65-67; note that the received image data gets converted to printing data**) *in a print format which can be handled commonly by all the network printers* (**column 7, lines 23-38; note that the capabilities of all the printers PRN1-PRN4 are analyzed. In figure 3, printers 1-3 handle printing with A4 print formatting**).

Aoki and Owa et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to the network printer comprises an intermediate print data receiving section for receiving intermediate print data *in a print format which can be handled commonly by all the network printers*. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to efficiently proceed with the desired printer and control the host to drive the selected printer (column 2, lines 20-25). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. with Aoki to obtain the invention as specified in claim 9.

Aoki and Owa et al. disclose all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching if the network printer receives specialized print data which contains printing conditions indicating that printing should be done on printing conditions indicating that printing should be done on another network printer, the

network printer transfers the resulting intermediate print data to the other network printer, and if the network printer receives specialized print data which contains printing conditions indicating that printing should be done on the network printer itself, the network printer does printing based on the received specialized print data.

However, Perry teaches if the network printer receives specialized print data which contains printing conditions indicating that printing should be done on printing conditions indicating that printing should be done on another network printer (**column 2, lines 1-7; note that if the first printer, or output device, is not capable to process the print job, it transfers it to the second printer based on a comparison result**), the network printer transfers the resulting intermediate print data to the other network printer (**column 1, lines 63-67; note that the first printer distributes or transfers the print job to the second printer based on the capabilities**), and if the network printer receives specialized print data which contains printing conditions indicating that printing should be done on the network printer itself (**column 2, lines 7-10; note that when the second printer gets selected based on the capabilities, it submits the offer to the user to fulfill the print job or process the print job**), the network printer does printing based on the received specialized print data (**column 2, lines 1-4; note that the second printer processes or fulfills the requirements based on the received print job i.e. considered as output data**).

Owa et al., Aoki and Perry are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. network printing. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art if the network printer receives

specialized print data which contains printing conditions indicating that printing should be done on printing conditions indicating that printing should be done on another network printer, the network printer transfers the resulting intermediate print data to the other network printer, and if the network printer receives specialized print data which contains printing conditions indicating that printing should be done on the network printer itself, the network printer does printing based on the received specialized print data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to have an efficient and reliable system that could be able to process print request without user selecting the appropriate printer. Such system also saves time (column 1, lines 24-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Owa et al. and Aoki with Perry to obtain the invention as specified in claim 9.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Hilina Kassa whose telephone number is (571) 270-1676.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore could be reached at (571) 272- 7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about PAIR system, see <http://pari-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hilina S Kassa/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625
March 5, 2009

/David K Moore/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625